



Town of Bethlehem
Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
Meeting Notes

April 26, 2022

6:30 pm

Attendees: Skip, Nate, Henry, Erin R., Dana, Steve, John, Susan, David, Jeff, Caitlyn, Marc, Jennifer, Kristin.

Intro New Members:

John - Attorney. Interested in walkable spaces.

Susan – Background in Planning.

Jeff – Interested in improving walkable space in the town.

Steve –retired from state agency.

Caitlyn – new police representative- in charge of Walk and Roll Fest 2022.

Public Comment:

Two residents attended the meeting: **Craig** –new resident interested in attending to understand safe spaces for walking; **Alex** –resident interested in seeing how she can get involved.

Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Henry Moved. Erin R. Second –All voted to Approve.

Walk and Roll Fest 2022

Caitlyn K. Reported with update on the planning of the Walk and Roll Fest. There will be different stations (Pedestrian Station, Skill Station, Helmet Station). Police will staff the event. Parks/Rec –put advertisement in the summer playbook, will also reach out for highway signs on Delaware. EMS will table and have an ambulance on site. Fire will table and bring a truck.

CDT grant is ready to file and we will retro funds to the grant when open.

Other vendors: Caitlyn reported on sponsors including Walmart donating bikes, helmets. Stewarts will have ice cream cart and coupons. Martin, Harding and Mazzotti donating helmets. CDPHP will tent –go over rental rates/bike sharing. Rooted + Rind will have a tent–outdoor seating and bathrooms for use. Library will have a tent. Stiner Sports donating equipment. Price Chopper, Hannaford, ShopRite donating food and water. Price Chopper, Hannaford, ShopRite donating food and water.

Mohawk/Hudson Conserve Signs are done. Bethlehem Op Unlimited –Middle School and HS –Bike and Ped Trivia. CAPCOM is also interested in sponsoring reflective light kits. Police has new helmets, adult vests, kid vests, wrist and leg bands, and bags already in storage and three youth bikes, adult bikes and scooter to auction off. All local schools have been notified. Working with school to add incentive for raffle to connect to the school for student. Insurance complete for the event. Advertising is happening now –will increase as we get closer.

Erin S. has list of students to volunteer at the event. Staff from Middle Schools/HS are reaching out to the students.

Nate recommended providing training for students who volunteer right before the event.

Three skills stations set up – need adult volunteers. Need volunteers to come an hour before. Committee members have started to volunteer. Notify Skip if you are available to volunteer. Police have box of cones for skills station.

Questions:

Committee Member asked if CDTA will send a bus to show bikers how to put bike on bus?–Caitlyn will reach out to find out if CDTA about offering a bus.

Committee Member asked if there is a way to get a bus Route from CDTA to see if someone would advertise for other communities? Caitlyn will reach out to CDTA.

Committee Member asked about large signage on main street and signage on bike path. Signs will be posted on path and streets. Mark will check on electronic sign.

Sidewalk Maintenance:

Henry provided committee a review of the prior work from the Committee on the priority projects including Board's increase money. Henry stated that we are due to report back to the Board on the implementation of the program. The first year, the first \$150,000 only one project from the priority list was completed. The current proposal for sidewalk paving only has two projects on the priority list to be completed this year. Our report back to the Board is that we think that there has not been the progress that should be made to implement the Town's priority program. We are recommending that the Board look at how to implement this priority program. A statement has been circulated to the Committee

members. Next step will be the Board meeting tomorrow and we will present during the public comment period.

We were hoping to get the data from the survey that Works did to see whether things got better or worse since the 2014 survey but we do not have that information yet.

The Delaware sidewalks were not included in this priority list because it was assumed that this will be done with Complete Streets. Priority will have to shift if not done under Complete Streets.

Updates: F Bush Road sidewalks will start in a few weeks, Hudson being done now, Kenwood will start soon.

Erin R. questioned timeline on sidewalks that are used the most –waiting for state/fed money would take too long. Asked if there could set a timeline. Committee discussed ways to salvage the 2.9 M funding for Complete Streets. DOT is willing to work creatively with us. Need a small group together to salvage those funds. Committee members will notify Skip of interest on working on this project.

Another thing discussed with DOT is the added requirements to remediate state sidewalks as a barrier to remediation. A foot of sidewalk in state road is twice as much as town road. Town is trying to work on this issue. Need help from Committee to raise this issue with County representatives.

Discussed alternative means of funding sidewalks. Also discussed that community complaints are heavily on wanting to add sidewalks verses remediate existing sidewalks.

Skip will ask Committee members who want to work on this Subcommittee.

Next Steps: Suggested that the Committee would report to the Board on the sidewalk priority list. Discussed adding this to the agenda for the May 25th Board meeting. Committee will send materials for the Board meeting to Nate.

Discuss Committee Recorder Role

We discussed rotating through members to do notes. We also discussed other roles for the Committee members and establishing structure to Subcommittees. Skip will send around email to new members about what Subcommittee wants to work on and work to report on work prior to meetings.

Jennifer recommended setting a few members to serve as note takers. Jennifer offered to serve as one of the note takers. Erin R. suggested every member serve in the role on a rotating basis. Erin R. offered to take notes in May meeting. We did not resolve the questions. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Town Board Annual Update for 2021/2022

Department Updates:

- **Town Safety Committee**
 - **Kenwood Ave**

The Town has reached out to a few firms to get estimates/scopes. Waiting to hear back from Firms. Kenwood Ave (4 Corner –Route 32) has speeding issues/road narrow/sidewalk issues. There was an incident and pedestrian safety. Looking for a study to improve the road safety (short/long term plans).

Committee member asked why we are doing sidewalks on Kenwood when this study was being done. This is going to be looked into by Highway Department.

- **Speed Humps**

Looking into speed humps that have been used in other municipalities. Town looking to see if they can be tested out in certain neighborhoods. Nate stated that there is a need for volunteers to work on this project. Looking for outreach in certain Communities members that might be interested in this project. Mailers with surveys that could be mailed back. For street trees Town has sent letters and call with concerns. The letter approach does get responses. Skip will seek Sub Committee members.

- **Police Department**

Caitlyn provided update above on Walk and Roll and added that the Town website is updated with current flyer for Walk and Roll.

- **Highway Department**

No updates.

- **Planning Department**

Email update was sent by Nate prior to the meeting. Juniper Drive request for sidewalk was made and Nate will follow up on the history. Planning has scored and it does not score high. The town has covert counters (traffic/speed data). Planning will look at what data has been collected and will add to the list to collect data. It can be something the Committee considers if the Committee wants to collect this information.

Subcommittee Updates

- **Safety/Public Awareness/ Safety Outreach Campaign**

Educate Drivers/Ped/Walkers: want to tie that into sidewalks and speeding complaints. RFP has been drafted by Town staff and we need to engage the entire Committee about what the drivers are doing wrong, what walkers need to do, cyclists need to do. That RFP will be going out shortly. The Town is looking to bring in professional help to do a communication plan. The RFP is for a professional media firm. Looking to use American Rescue Funds to pay for the RFP.

- **Rail Trail Winter Usage**

No updates. County has not responded to all requests. Erin R. and Skip mentioned that the County was very responsive to a request to fix the Rail Trail when there was damage before a Marathon. Committee members suggested speaking with those involved.

New Business:

Bike/Walk School Events: May 4th –Police are doing Bike Stops for Hamagrael Elementary and a presentation at Slingerlands Elementary.

Town Board meeting May 11th –will be on the Comp. Plan for those that want to make comments. Public Comments are still open. Read through the Goals and Recommendation Chapter. Henry will work on a draft to the Board for Committee Comment and Jennifer will work with Henry to finalize the letter for the Committee to consider for submission. Committee members will circulate comments made prior to other new Committee Members.

Adjourn – Jennifer Moved –John Second –all in favor.

Next meeting May 24, 2022